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TIMEX/SINCLAIR USERS GROUP-MILE HIGH CHAPTER SEPTEMBER 1991



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C/O CURT CARLSON 601 S. GRANT ST. DENVER CO 80209, 733-4391
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TSUG meetings are USUALLY on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
Next meeting september 21, 1991 at 1627 Jet Wing Drive,
Colorado Springs, at 2 P.M.
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MILE HI TSUG maintains a sub-board on THE KING'S MARKET BBS.
1-303-665-6091 B-1-NONE. Accessible through PC-PURSUIT.
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AUGUST MHTSUG MEETING.

Last month's MHTSUG meeting started at 2 PM as scheduled. I called Andy Hradesky at about 11 AM just to let him know that I would still be ready to help set-up at 1 o'clock. Andy had worked the night before and really had to "push it" to pack everything in his car and drive to Denver. The monthly newsletters received were read and reviewed. A great package from, William Pedersen of The WIDJUP Co. was shown that will turn your printer into a high resolution plotter. The sample Mandelbrot printouts are impressive, and a disc also is included with a demo. I am writing to Mr. Pedersen to inform him that the MHTSUG does not have the means to load any discs at the present time. This will be of continuing interest and look for more information soon. Demonstrations of a TS1000 running a disc drive was set-up by Andy, and explained the pros and cons of the system. Which operates more like a fast tape drive system because there isn't any DOS contained in the system. Only BASIC commands are used by the driver firmware which occupies about 2k of memory above address 16384. Large programs, that have less than 2k of margin to load, will crash. Curt loaded ZX-TERM*80 from cassette tape, using QUICKLOAD in about 30 seconds into his TS1000 and displayed 32, 40, 60 and 80 column print all at one time on the monitor. The program was written by Fred Nachbaur, et al., and will run either the Westridge TS2050 or Byteback MD-2 modems. A TS2068 displayed the digitized video from a camera, using both the original software from the Toronto TSUG and VIDEOTEX by John McMichael.

FROM INTERNATIONAL QL REPORT VOL.1, No.3 EDITORIAL.

From the staff of the IQLR, a great deal of exciting things are happening in the QL world. They have received their first disk of German Public Domain software, and is now being translated into English. The last issue of IQLR listed some 200 words of Spanish equivalents to form the basis of a multi-lingual International QL Computer Glossary. They are still in need for translators, so please let them know if you would like to help.

IQLR has available the public domain "C-68 COMPILER" from Dave Walker in the UK. The seven disks include the compiler, linker, library and tutorial, also the source code and extensive documentation. For \$15.00 plus \$3.00 s/h, they will supply the c-68 Compiler on 720k (1440 sector) disks, in 3 1/2" or 5 1/4 format.

IQLR BUYERS REGISTRY.

Rob Martin of Gainesville, Florida organized a group to buy the Miracle System's Gold Card at a group discount of 27 percent. Five or more units ordered will qualify for the discount. If you would like to be notified of future group buys a fee of \$3.00 per year will provide that service to you. Currently there are two group buys planned. They are the KEYBOARD-90 and MINERVA ROM board.

MIRACLE SYSTEMS GRAPHICS CARD rumors.

IQLR has been told that the Graphics Card will be compatible with current hardware and software. It will have 1024 X 512 pixels in four colors and 512 X 256 pixels in 256 colors. No delivery date is known.

QLAW UPDATE.

the Super QL Project, -Dr. Sohail S. Bhatti. He is to encourage team recruiting to work on divided tasks mainly in two areas, Software and Hardware. He points out that the QL is now three silicon chip generations old (75 - 90 years in human terms). Attention should then be directed at the BUS. The BUS should have an interface that addresses 16-bits or 32-bits desired. The interface should be "Future-Proof", possibly the VME BUS SYSTEM which is fast becoming the standard for Motorola 68xxx processors. He feels that the QDOS by Tony Tebby, SMS2 and MINERVA are still state of the art and provide the tools for many developments. A Congress will be held in the future to provide direction and elect officers.

THOR XVI SUPPORT.

Many complaints from Thor owners are becoming unanswered. A concern as to whether Thor is still in business. The Danish Embassy and Trade Commission are to be contacted as well as Mjolner (Malcom Smith) and a supplier, Cowo Electronics in Switzerland. If you need these addresses, please contact MHTSUG.

Average IGLR reader has 2.4 QL's. Over 76 percent of the readers say most used software is Quill. Most important hardware addition is the Trump Card, second in line is the RGB monitor, and third was the combination of Expander RAM and Disk Drives. Half of the readers say they do programing on the QL. They would like to have some of the results sent in for sharing with other users.

..... ADDING A MONITOR TO YOUR VIDEO OUTPUT

By Curt Carlson

Many of you have been upgrading your Timex/SINCLAIR computers with video monitors, both monochrome and color. How many of you have gone out and bought a monitor, only to find out it will not display your video signal? Either the picture will tear, flip, roll, lose color and may emit a high pitched "whistle", just as you realize that you made a big mistake buying a bargain monitor. It could be an adjustment or two needed to make the picture appear sharp and clear like a Mac or IBM. These "bargain" monitors sometimes are just the picture tube, frame and printed circuit board. In other words, without any protective enclosure, power switch or even a power supply. Most often there will be no documentation telling you what you have or what you will need.

To help those of you that might be wanting to make the big jump in displaydom, a series of articles will appear right here to guide your leap. When the ZX80 and ZX81 computers appeared on the scene, I had already been working on building and using other computers. The MICROACE, an American clone of the ZX80 was my first computer. Building the MICROACE from a kit with twice the RAM capacity as the ZX80, an impressive 2048 bytes of memory, and a display with white characters on black background made me feel way ahead of the average computerist in hardware improvements. There certainly have been a lot of improvements since then, to each of the ZX81-T/S1000-T/S1500-T/S2048-QL-Z88-Clones, et al. This series will continue next month and possibly longer. I will try to include some basic information that can be used to find the right video monitor that will display sharp and clear.

Acronyms are used in computer and television terminology obviously because we humans do have a lot of limitations. Sometimes we cannot remember everything we learn but, lazyness and conservation of space, time and memory all contribute to developing initials and letters to discribe terms to others. Some frequently used acronyms associated with computer video are listed below. Horizontal scan rates range from 15 to 75 KiloHertz (kHz.) and vertical scan rates from 40 to 120 hertz (Hz.) The computer application and scan rates will be useful when searching for a workable monitor.

ACRONYMMEANINGCOMPUTERHORIZ. VERT. D/ANOTES

CGA Color Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	15.75	60D	
DA Display Adapter	XT,AT	31.50	60A	1
DA Display Adapter	XT,AT	31.50	70A	1
DA Display Adapter	XT,AT	35.50	43.5A	1
EGA Enhanced Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	15.75	60D	
EGA Enhanced Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	18.02	50D	
EGA Enhanced Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	21.85	60D	2
HGA Hercules Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	18.02	50D	3
Mac Apple Macintosh 128K, 512K	Macintosh	22.23	60D	
Mac+Apple Macintosh Plus	Macintosh	22.23	60D	
Mac SEApple Macintosh SE	Macintosh	22.23	60D	
Mac 2Apple Macintosh II	Macintosh II	35	66A	
MCGAMulticolor Graphics Adapter	PC,XT,AT	31.50	70A	4
MCGAMulticolor Graphics adapter	PS/2 Model 30	31.50	60A	4
MDA Monochrome Display Adapter	PC,XT,AT	18.02	50D	
PGA Professional Graphics Adapter	XT,AT	31.50	60A	
SuperMacHigh-resolution Cards	Macintosh II	53.37	66.1A	
SuperMacHigh-resolution cards	Macintosh II	48.19	59.3A	
VGA Video Graphics Array	PS/2	31.50	60A	
VGA Video Graphics Array	PS/2	31.50	70A	
VGA Video Graphics Array	PS/2	35.50	43.5A	
II Apple II	Apple II	15.75	60D	
IIE Apple IIe	Apple IIe	15.75	60D	
IIGSApple IIgs	Apple IIgs	15.75	60D	

Notes:

1. A full set of the VGA features for use with older PCs.
2. Changes modes by program control. IBM-compatibles often support HGA standard.
3. Non-IBM standard for monochrome graphics.
4. A subset of the VGA standard for use with older PCs and the PS/2 Model 30.

* Iare A. Csaszar, a video equipaent designer and engineer, and is president of Covid Inc., Tempe, AZ.

As you can see there are many different Horizontal and Vertical scan rates adopted by each computer format. Computer video has a much wider bandwidth then standard broadcast video, ranging from 20 Mhz to 100Mhz. Display resolution, detail and sharpness is much greater then the approximately 4.7 Mhz for luminance (black and white) and 1.5 Mhz for the chrominance (color) bandwidth limitation of broadcast television video.

Until next month, just keep computing.

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